

**I claim:**

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1. A backrest for attachment to a chair having a seat, the backrest comprising:  
(a) a support structure having a top and a bottom; and,  
(b) a plurality of flexible, independently moveable, vertically extending members positioned to engage at least a portion of a back of a person when the person is seated in the chair,

whereby the backrest conforms to the shape of the back of the person.

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2. The backrest of claim 1 wherein the vertically extending members are positioned to engage at least the lumbar and mid-back of the person when the person is seated in the chair.

3. The backrest of claim 1 wherein the vertically extending members are positioned to engage substantially the entirety of the portion of the back of the person which is supported by the back rest.

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4. The backrest of claim 1 wherein the flexion of the vertically extending members conforms to the shape of the back of the person as the position of the back of the person with respect to the back rest is adjusted.

5. The backrest of claim 1 wherein the support structure comprises an outer peripheral portion which includes the top and bottom of the support structure and the peripheral portion surrounds a central portion in which the vertically extending members are positioned.

6. The backrest of claim 5 wherein the back rest has a front and a back and the

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vertically extending members engage the support structure only at the top and the bottom whereby the vertically extending members support the back of the person without engaging any structural member positioned behind the vertically extending members.

7. The backrest of claim 1 wherein the support structure comprises a frame and a support shell mounted thereon, the vertically extending members are provided on the support shell at one vertical end thereof.

8. The backrest of claim 7 wherein the support shell and the frame each have an outer peripheral portion and a central opening and the vertically extending members are positioned in the central openings.

9. The backrest of claim 1 wherein the vertically extending members have a bottom portion that is vertically adjustable.

10. The backrest of claim 9 wherein the bottom portion is engagable at a plurality of vertically spaced apart engagement members provided on a bottom portion of the back rest.

11. A one-piece backrest for supporting a person's back, the backrest comprising:

- (a) a frame having a top and a bottom;
- (b) at least two slats extending between the top and the bottom,

wherein each slat is resilient so as to be responsive to a force applied to it by the person's back to produce a responsive force.

12. The backrest of claim 11 wherein the responsive force produced by each of the

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